image
SEX CRIMINALS
FRACTION ZDARSKY
14
LADIES PLEASE

PREVIOUSLY IN SEX CRIMINALS

Synopsis [edit]

Suzie, a librarian, and Jon, an actor, meet at a party and, after sleeping together, they discover that they share the ability to freeze time when they orgasm. As their relationship develops and their sexual histories are explored, they decide to rob the bank where Jon works in order to save Suzie's endangered library.

Publication history [edit]

In March 2013, Image Comics announced a sex comedy during the Emerald City Comicon.[4] Later reports confirmed that it was intended for mature readers and would have Matt Fraction and Chip Zdarsky in the forefront. Films like *The 40-Year-Old Virgin, Bridesmaids,* and *Jackass: The Movie* were referenced as touchstones for the comics, and Fraction himself confirmed in an interview that the works of Billy Wilder also inspired him deeply in writing.[5]

Zdarsky and Fraction had known each other for a short time before the book's creation. They communicated almost exclusively online and Chip was the first to suggest a collaboration between the two. Initially, Zdarsky wanted to write a book that was their take on fantasy, as neither of the two were big fans of the genre.[6] Matt reponded with another idea. In an e-mail sent on March 31, 2012, Fraction said "what if we do a sex comedy about a guy, who every time he ejaculates, stops time?". Zdarsky was tired from a business trip he was on and agreed to the idea without much thought. After continued communication, their idea began to grow until the book was published in September 2013. Since then, the book has gained a cult following, and its fans refer to themselves as 'brimpers' after a sex position described in the first issue.

Reception [edit]

Critical reception [edit]

Time honored *Sex Criminals* as the #1 comic series/graphic novel of 2013.[7]

IGN tagged the work as "amazing", and said that the story is "so addictive, you'll find yourself staring at the last page in horror when you realize you'll have to wait another month to find out what happens next".[8]

Paste called the first issue "splendid", with "an immediately likable character", specifying that although one "wouldn't trust most comic creators to turn a sexual awakening into compelling pulp fiction (...) Fraction and Zdarsky pull it off masterfully."[9]

WhatCulture.com called *Sex Criminals* a "masterpiece", with "an adorable cast, virtuoso writing and stunning art,",[10] and Sciencefiction.com called it "entertaining", "witty", and "very fun", while emphasizing that the sexual content is "tastefully presented."[11]

The first compilation, *Sex Criminals: One Weird Trick,* was nominated for the 2015 Hugo Award for Best Graphic Story.[12]

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This book is dedicated to Kates.

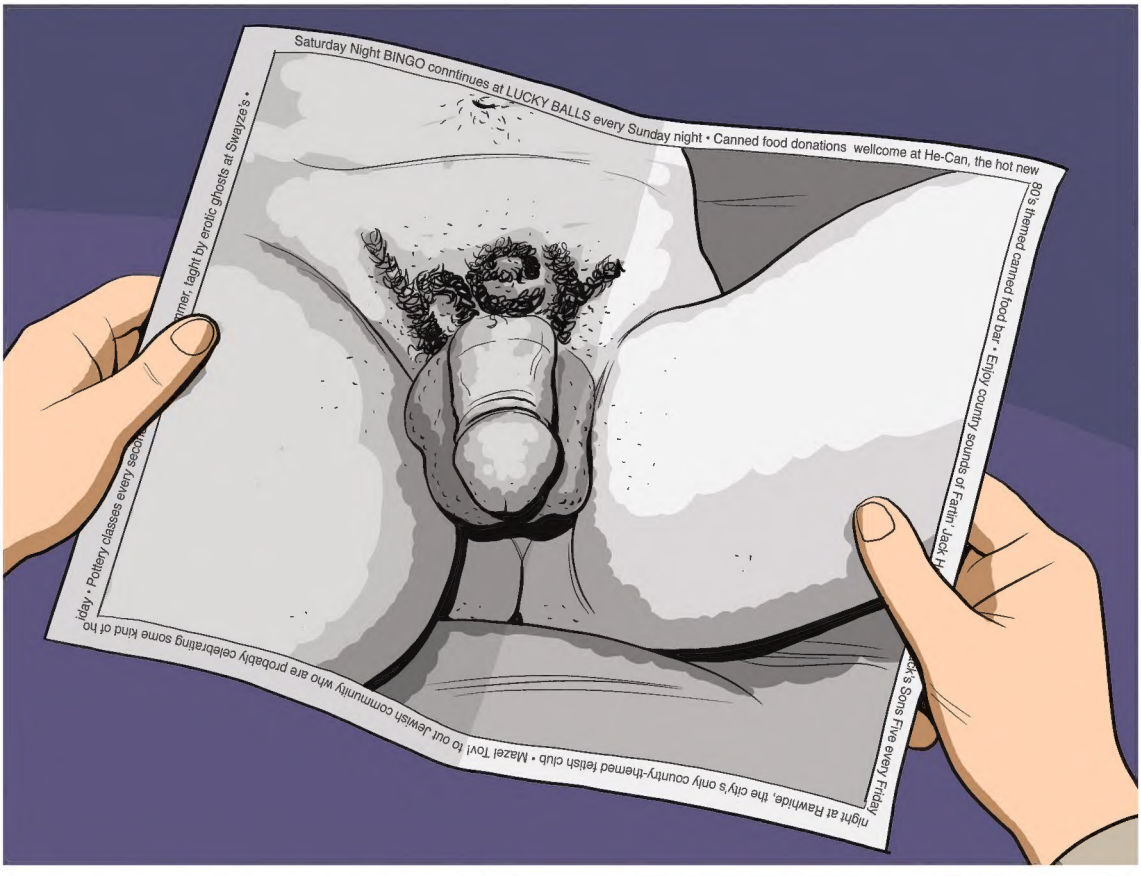
Excuse me—
—AAHH HOLY SHIT—!!

I'm sorry—
I didn't mean to startle—
—No, no, it's okay—

I'm so used to people accusing me of stealing. I guess I'm a little jumpy.
—It is?
That's why I came over, actually—

Well, yeah, I was sitting there watching you and—
—Are you putting things *in* the newspapers?

My news-letter!
I write up a little "Neighborhood Notes" and slip 'em into the paper.
See?


Saturday Night BINGO conntinues at LUCKY BALLS every Sunday night • Canned food donations wellcome at He-Can, the hot new 80's themed canned food bar • Enjoy country sounds of Faith, Jack H
ck's Sons Five every Friday night at Rawhide, the city's only country-themed fetish club • Mazel Tov! to out Jewish community who are probably celebrating some kind of ho
mer, taght by erotic ghosts at Swayze's •
day • Pottery classes every secon

PAIL & ANCHORS
FUCK YOU SPORTS JERSEYS!
BABY TOYS 'N MORE
ONLY PENS
ERE IT IS
Ye Olde Tip Top Guvna Pub

PAIL & ANCHORS
FUCK YOU SPORTS JERSEYS!
BABY TOYS 'N MORE
ERE IT IS
Ye Olde Tip Top Guvna Pub
"Don't be an asshole."
—AAHH HOowowow OWOW SHIT—

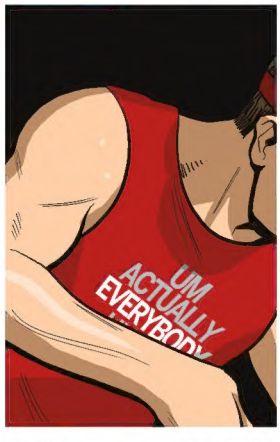
It's unbecoming.
Then don't be obdurate, Myrtle.
We need paper. That's it, that's all.
...You're telling me, you don't know a guy?
You don't know how to do this sort of thing?
"Know a"—
You can't steal what doesn't exist, Myrtle.
All right.
It's not enough I'm screwing around on my husband, now I'm a thief, too?
You can't tell me you're not into this, Myrtle.
Hello, Doctor.
I need your help.

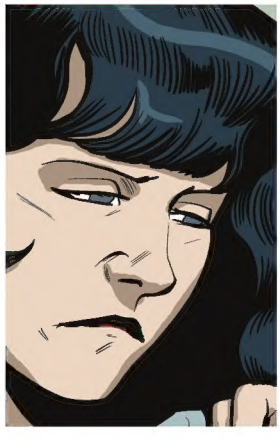
stupid stupid stupid god DAMN –
Hey –
–Whoa, wait, what?
Not that I mind the view, but what the hell are you doing?
Very funny. Can you tools?
I had this idea to make a thing and I've never made things before and–
–"Can I tools?" That's not even–
Can you? It's all cut, I just have to assemble it.
I don't want to show up to my new shitty job like a giant sweat monster.
–Yeah, it's okay. I–
Don't worry about it. I can, uh. I can tools.
Go, go to work, it's okay.
nnf
UM ACTUALLY EVERYBODY

Are you...
Are you just watching me?
No! Well—
—I mean, I'm objectifying you a little bit.
Don't you have somewhere to be?
I'm going, I'm going—
I love you.
What?
I AM MORE THAN JUST A PIECE OF MEAT—
All right, jeez—
NNNggg boy I am INTO IT—
I HAVE A JOB TOO Y'KNOW—
Yikes!
UM ACTUALLY EVERYBODY LIKES A PEDANT

JON'S JOB
but come on its not really a job job
you don't get paid
still a job! still a thing I committed to do!
and it's not the bank! leave me alone!
you just like spending time with your boner queen
she's sucked more dick than the Chicago cubs from 1908-2015
Jon.
not true U R my boner queen
come on she's amazing at her job she's helping us
cant tell if we're kidding anymore
not kidding
Jon. I need boxes 8 and 9 please.
she really DID suck all them dicks
Jon.
SUZIE'S SHITTY NEW JOB
she really DID suck all them dicks
hello
this thing on?
hello
this thing on?

BAREBACKING KNOWLEDGE
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY
READ A BOOK


UM
ACTUALLY
EVERYBODY



UM
ACTUALLY
EVERYBODY

READING BOOKS IS LIKE
BAREBACKING KNOWLEDGE
WHO WANTS TO GO ON AN ADVENTURE?
READ A BOOK
boop
Oh for fuck's sake, I'll turn it off myself —
...
Well now.
COMMUNITY BOARD
You don't hurry up + get back here and sext with me imma have to go take care of this myself
COMMUNITY BOARD
come on it says you've read it already...

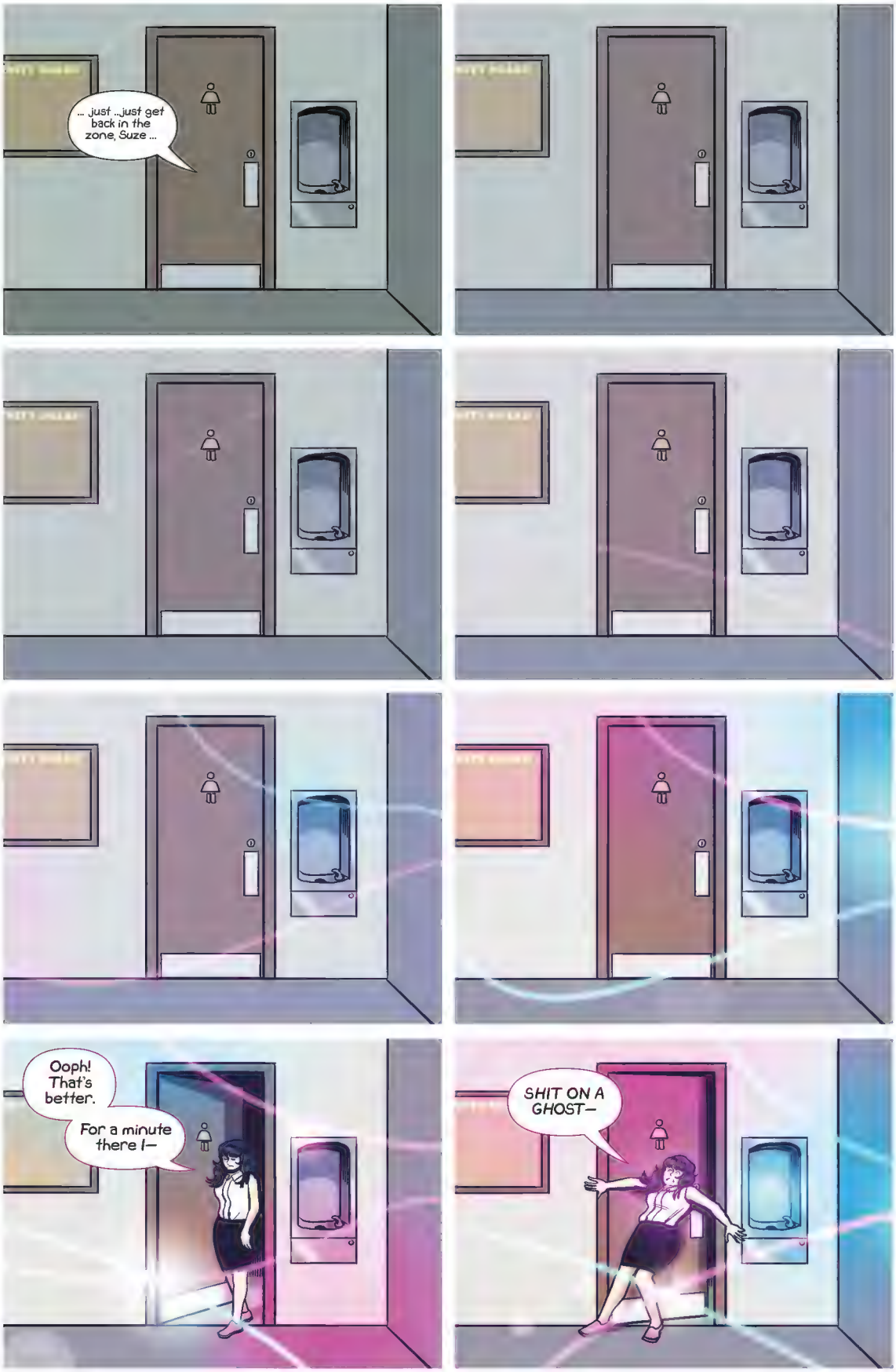
Your loss, pal...
OIN' THE DEW(EY)
BACK IN 5

lock

lock

Oh god da—

GODDAMMIT YOU FUCKING PIECE OF SHIT—
—Just ...


... just ...just get back in the zone, Suze ...
Ooph! That's better.
For a minute there I—
SHIT ON A GHOST—

Hey.
We should talk, I'm thinking.
Otherwise I'm gonna smack the shit out of you.
Uhhh...

Uhhh...
Ugh.
Canadian phone sound
Yyyyyyyyyyello?
It's over, chum. I blew it.
There's a scene I have to write and I don't know how to write it.
And I don't want to write it.
It's, uh, it's a bad scene. Ana and Suzie argue, and—
—And I know, like, characters in opposition is supposed to be dramatic and shit—
—But I think it makes for shitty writing?
"I think this!" "I think that!" Ugh.
It's just bad. I. Am bad.
And sad. This is really hard to do right now.
Pardon, chum? Say again?
The *Jughead* money just arrived. What are we talking about?
Hello?

Ana and Suzie have to argue and I don't want to write it because it's too on-the-nose.
Like, no subtext, just — just text.
So I'm trying to figure out how to get out of it—
Chum?
Are you done? It's just—
You've never actually stopped talking before and I'm worried.
No, no, I'm here, I'm here. Maybe we could—
So here's a scene where Ana and Suzie have it out.
Suzie makes gross comments about Ana's history as a sex worker and Ana makes broad assumptions regarding Suzie's ethics and motives.
And this is different from the time we did Post-It Notes™ with "Fat Bottom Girls*" because
* See "Sexy Crimbo" #3, Brimpers! -- Sufferin' Sanko
No.
No.
No.
No.
Chum?
Chum, who gives a shit? My coke habit is 100% funded by a DUCK COMIC! My interns draw this book while I dick-doodle all day! Fuck it! Fuck everything!
Chum?
Chum, I'm kidding. My coke habit requires a lot more money than that.
What are you doing?
Eaffing a gun-shaped donuff.
Sure.
Look, chum, go back to basics. What's going on in the scene? Why is it here? What does it get us?
Does it get me more coke?
Ana and Suze have it out.
But what it's about is how even our, y'know, good guys, heroes, whatever, our protagonists -
—Everybody's a little bit judge-y.

Like, okay, I read this speech by Elizabeth Smart.
Remember her?
Kidnapped at, like, 14 by some evil hippies who literally chained her up and raped her several times a day?
She tells this story about how, after she's rescued, and back in school and stuff, a teacher compares people who have pre-marital sex to chewed-up pieces of gum.
And this girl, this impossibly brave, y'know—
—Like, she has a foundation now, she works to stop child sex trafficking, she's amazing—
—But she has to sit there and fucking, like, listen to this shitty high school teacher say that! And she thinks—
"Oh my god, that's me, I'm that piece of gum."
And I— It—
—Like, it's just so easy to judge, to decide, to, like, impose your values on someone else.
I typed the lines, where they make fun of Ana, without even realizing what I was doing, and then I thought—
—well, okay, we can deal with that, right? Down the line, because fuck me for writing it, fuck her for thinking it, and won't that be interesting.
And I don't want to fucking write it but not because it's not important or relevant—
—or that sex-shaming, slut-shaming, just, like, shaming, is this crippling, like, awful—
—it's dehumanizing. It's so common, people don't even realize they're even doing it.
I wasn't asleep. Fuck you.
—And, like, is Ana any better? Deciding there's nothing "Robin Hood" about Jon and Suze? She's like a Steve Ditko character.
Right right right, okay—
—I guess, like, this whole arc, it's the — y'know, who gets to decide who's a monster and who isn't, y'know?
Thematically, I mean.
You're into what you're into, I'm into what I'm into.
We don't have to be into the same shit, and if you're safe, sane, and happy, then go on and get you some.
MORE LIKE MATT YAKTION, AM I RIGHT?
It's not hard to talk about but it's hard to write well and not just be, like, preachy, state-your-theme-guy.
And you can't just come out and state your theme. And you can't come up with a way to do the scene without that.
Yeah, pretty much.
Why don't we just full-on Chuck Jones it?
It's comics. We can do whatever we want, chum. Why not go meta? We've done meta before.
Heck, I could draw this.
You mean, like—like this conversation?
It'd be a little masturbatory, wouldn't it?
Oh, chum...

MATT
Chip Zdarsky
...How could *this* be masturbatory?
CHIP BOY

—MMIT.
Oh.
Sorry.
See you at dinner.
—Wait, what?
...the hell did...
Oh my stars and garters.

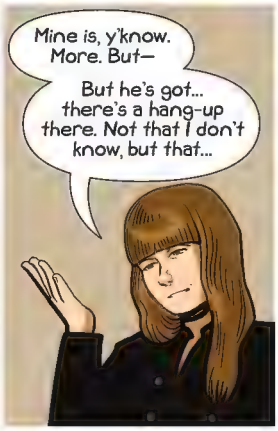
Oh
Oh
oh oh MY oh—
—aaahh GOD this—
—this is—
ah
—almost—
—almost—
there—
—almost—
—ahh—
—shit SHIT Myrtle I'm gonna—
—s'okay go do it GO—
—on, Myrtle, please.
You don't even need to fuck him to do what you need to do.
You're clearly getting something else out of it.
!!!

–DDDJjj jjjjjuu uhhh–
–hhhholy shit.
Did I just come so hard I teleported?
You slipped.
Wow. That was... that was filthy.
I have patients in here.
The next time Roberta Meatball lies there talking about her mother, all I'm going to be thinking about is your ass.
I'm offended it's not what you already thought of.
Washroom.
Your girl still at lunch?
Christ, I hope so.
Otherwise she...
...she...
Johnson, J
Myrtle, what the fuck?

The fuck, y'know? Like— like—
I don't know what it's like.
Mm.
FINAL CROSSFIT
STUD MUFFINS

Like, okay. My "number."
I don't know my exact "number."

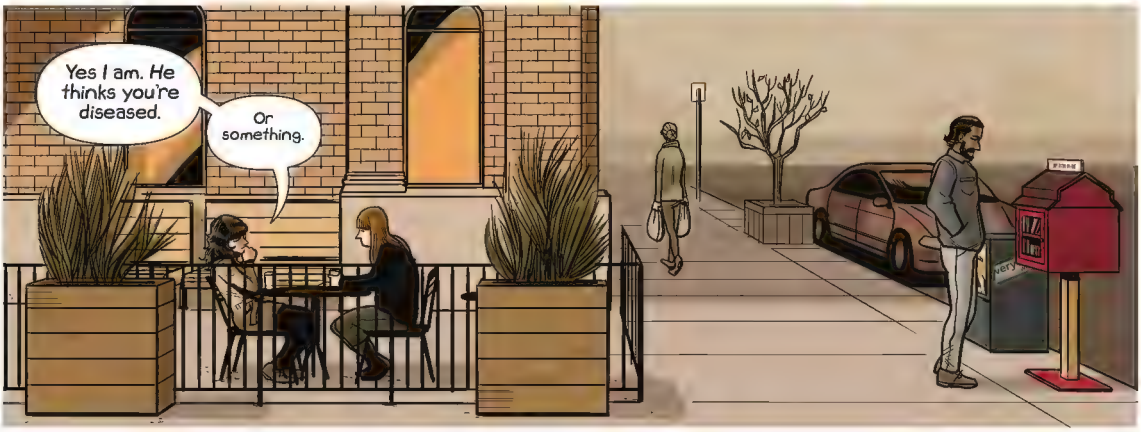
What's his number? Is it, like—
It's not one, is it?


Mine is, y'know. More. But—
But he's got... there's a hang-up there. Not that I don't know, but that...

...But that it's more than three. Never mind the fact that this is a guy who touches pussies all day every day.
It makes him weird. It makes him uncomfortable. I think if I'd slept with even just four guys he'd be uncomfortable.
Insecure.
Li'l Library! Take a

This relationship could be awesome but he can't —

—You're not listening.


Yes I am. He thinks you're diseased.
Or something.

"I suppose it's a part of every relationship, right? 'What were your other relationships like?'
"And like — I don't care?
L/'I Library! Take a book, leave a book!
"My thinking's always kind of been, like, well — like whatever they were, whomever they were with —
"They made you who you *are*.
L/'I Library! Take a book, leave a book!
"And that's who I'm interested in. That's who I'm *into*. You, *this*, is what I'm into.
"Why does anything else matter?
L/'I Library! Take a book, leave a book!
WOLF 4
I'm totally not listening. I'm a shitty friend. I'm a bad person. But I can't *help it*—
— that guy just took a book.
I start doing the sympathy face and nodding now but I confess, I'm totally lost.
Maybe I should shake my head, like, *ugh, no, I can't believe that* here? I AM THE WORST I'M SORRY RACH.
Okay. Okay. She looks like she's wrapping up. I'm going to zone in..... *now*.
I feel like I gotta ask him, like, "Are you into it, or what?"
She's right. Holy shit, she's right.
I'm not into it anymore.
I don't want to rob stuff with Jon anymore.
And my best friend is having some sort of thing.
Shit.
SHIT.

LETTER DADDIES

SEND YOUR THOUGHTS, SEXUAL QUESTIONS, AND TIPS ON HOW TO START TRULY ENJOYING THE TASTE OF JIZZ TO ***EMAILTHESEXCRIMINALS@GMAIL.COM.*** YOUR TYPOS/SHAME ARE YOUR OWN AND WILL BE RUN AS RECEIVED. ALL ASSUMED OK TO PRINT UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.

What the fuck was this goddamn thing again? You people like fucking hair or something? It's been so long I don't remember.

Hopefully next issue won't take so long!

•

After reading all of your hilariously perfect and moving (both emotional and intestinally) issues I started scratching my balls thinking, what the hell can I write in about. Then I remembered my grandfather. My grandfather could always be found watching porn on his big screen with the temperature of the house very high (we were told it was a medical thing but I bet it was ambiance) and smoking a cigar. I say always because this happened on multiple occasions especially as he got older like 80's. I think this is where I get my sexual proclivities from so there's the nature nurture argument.

Anyway he died this year and when we went there for the funeral I did a through peek through the house and found some wonderfully hidden artifacts from a bygone age. These are the sorts of things you can only find with the elderly and in Chip's glove compartment.

Yes that's a literal sex tape...I think you play it at parties. Our family is close so my cousins and brothers sat in a dimly lit room and played one in honor of him and it was like Sean Connery James Bond meets Chips high school prom. Above, you have cartoons and the top one is Dick Tracy. Below is a toy of Popeye that moves to show him Agagagagetting off. Yes that's a candle because it was dark and I haven't bought a lamp. My lamp money goes to Scrims. Also yes there is a picture of my grandfather in a top hat with a Pre Tom Selleck stache but I can't send it because you'll turn it into a variant cover. Actually go ahead.

Thanks for writing from your beautiful hearts and minds. You are two very special beings.

Alex

IT'S A LITERAL SEX TAPE HOLY SHIT

IT'S 1970S PAUL F. TOMPKINS HOLY SHIT -CZ

•

I just wanted to pass this along, because it's made me very upset. I think there should 100% already be Sex Crims themed panties. Not the run of the mill day of the week stuff either. No. These are panties with a fun sex position to try. A reminder to hit on your significant or insignificant other with a line from JUST THE TIPS. Or maybe just a drawing of Suzie's O face right over my lady junk.

Not to leave the male readers out, what about manties that make their penises glow? I bet that will get their partners super hot to have some safe, safe sex.

I just want you guys to make more money so that I can keep hemorrhaging money at Sex Crims.

Love,
Kimmi

Maybe glow-in-the-dark condoms that we print a drawing of Jon's penis on. Cocksplay!

A girlfriend once bought me a thong that had a horse's head on the front for ye olde wangle. If you pressed the end of the horse's head, it activated a loud "horse neigh." Cut to years later and we're cleaning house, and a junk removal guy comes to get our garbage. He picks up one of the bags and a loud horsey sound starts coming from it that just won't stop. He just looks at us, we shrug, and he carts it away, and then we die laughing.

I don't know why, but I just needed to tell you that.

And no, I did not date Lisa Hanawalt. -CZ

•

SPECIAL NOTE TO WAYNE: Hey Wayne. Your letter was awesome. I wasn't sure if your "not-for-print" bit was covering the whole letter or just the part that came right after you said "not-for-print" so I just want you to know your letter was awesome and you are awesome.

•

I wanted to ask when or if that jizz fairy will ever be defeated? Can jizz ever be truly destroyed? She is terrifying. Kind of in a good way? But still. She haunts me. I need to know if I'll ever be able to sleep again.
Carrie W

Noooooo! The Jizz Fairy is our Cum-Hulk. JIZZ FAIRY IS THE CUMMEST ONE THERE IS or

something.

The only thing that can defeat the Jizz Fairy is low sales! -CZ

•

I started a new job last month after a healthy stint of unemployment, and so now that I have moneys again, I decided to get back into doing therapy (super awesome, highly recommended). When starting therapy anew, I think it's good to set your expectations and mention things you want to work on, and one of the things I want to work on is being too judgemental. Like, I judge people for weird things and I probably need to stop.

I went into my comic book shop today to pick up the COOP variant for issue 13, but they ran out, so the employee offered to take down my info and give me a call when they got more copies in. He goes, "Sex Criminals #14 right?" and immediately in my head I was like, "NO YOU FOOL IT'S #13 AND YOU ARE SO DUMB," but then I remembered that I was trying not to be judgemental and that he was actually pretty helpful and nice, so shoutout to Almost Correct Guy at The Comic Bug in Culver City! Woo mental health!

Peter N.

My favorite thing about the Coop variant (aside from we got Coop to do a Coop variant) is that we asked the printer to stop double bagging and boarding the book so it wouldn't break the machine anymore, only we didn't realize (and no one there either cared, realized, nor mentioned) that the pink poly didn't wrap all the way around. So basically the back cover was a pink stripe of a naked lady's torso and a long-ass strap-on.

FUCKING GENIUS.

There is literally nothing that we won't fuck up. -CZ

•

Thank you for issue 13. You fucking nailed it.

I didn't realize I was asexual until I was in my twenties, and I didn't even know that asexuality was even a thing until my first semester of college. If I had read issue 13 back then I would've immediately thought "oh fuck that's me, I'm asexual" because that's how hard you fucking nailed it.

You absolutely nailed the feeling of being lost and confused when everyone around you is hooking up or talking about hooking up. You nailed how it is to be pressured into something you're not sure you want. Change Alix's gender and you've basically got the story of me in high school. I didn't have the added pressure of being female while going through puberty, and the fact that I was more interested in Battlestar Galactica than sports meant that I wasn't pressured as hard as some people, but the pressure was still there.

You feel that peer pressure around you and you feel everyone looking at you and judging you, even if they aren't aware of it. My friends would talk about this or that actress and say how hot she was, and talk about "what they would do to her" given the chance. And I just thought "yeah, she's attractive I guess." But I learned to say how hot she was. I learned to talk about sex and how I wanted it. I didn't want to be the weird guy, you know?

I tried sex a few times. I figured that I should, since everyone else was. It's like hearing about Thai food. Everyone says Thai food is awesome and everyone should have it and you're a freak for not wanting Thai food. So you get a plate of pad thai and it's okay as far as noodle-based dishes go, but it wasn't great. Eating the pad thai made made uncomfortable, more than anything. You're not in a rush to get more pad thai, but maybe you think the restaurant wasn't that great so you try another one a few years later and it's just like the last one, and you start to think you just don't like Thai food. That metaphor might not be the best. Sorry, I'm ranting.

Let me wrap this up by saying that I was thinking about emailing you after issue 12 to ask how you feel about asexual people or asexuality as whole. You're obviously both very sex positive and sometimes sex positive people mean the best but say things like "you just haven't met the right person" or "it's just a faze" and I guess I can't blame them. I never met an asexual person until college. But now I guess that email's pretty redundant. So thank you for once again being fantastic and blowing my mind and making me fall in (platonic) love with you all over again.

Colin M.

I think the Thai metaphor is perfect.

I think writing this book has been tremendous for my own empathy and compassion and understanding, and I'm trying, trying, trying, to shut my mouth more and open my ears more and let other people tell me their truths rather than superimposing mine onto them. I mean, that's the human condition, right? Even with the best of intentions.

Working on this book hasn't affected MY empathy, compassion or understanding at all! Fuck you Colin! Fuck you Matt! Wheeee! -CZ

•

I got three pages into #13, and I immediately started crying. Like, snot dripping from my nose, blubbering crying. I cannot begin to describe how much Alix's story meant to me. I spent my entire high school and most of my college experience trying to figure out why I

seemed to have such a debilitating anxiety toward potential sexual encounters. Hell! My first (and only) kiss launched me into a panic attack that was embarrassing for both parties (imagine being the guy who gave a girl a panic attack after he kissed her - I felt so bad)! My first few years of college were a tough time for me (I call them my "dark days") because I spent most of my time trying to be someone I wasn't in order to appease the people I wanted to get closer to. Not that these people were particularly bad or manipulative (one of them, to this day, I consider as one of the nicest, funniest, and all around greatest guys I've ever known), but I just didn't understand why I had so many reservations when it came to getting close to them. Ultimately, I realized it was because I had absolutely no desire to have sex with any of them. Sure, I can enjoy a good snuggle on the couch with a good movie (Netflix and chill, amiright?), but I began to notice that my lack of interest in sex usually created some sort of misunderstanding. Like they were speaking one language, and I was speaking another that was similar enough, but there were too many important words that were lost in translation or interpreted incorrectly. This essentially caused them to either lose interest or convince themselves that I wasn't interested in them in a romantic way. And that shit is tough to deal with when you're confused and don't understand why how you act is wrong (and by "act" I guess I mean "not act," if you know what I mean).

I'll have you know that I came out of my "dark days" with a new and enlightened spirit. It took me a while, but now I understand who I am and what I want, and I feel like I don't have to pretend to want something I could care less about. I am about 10x more confident in general by figuring all this stuff out; I just wish I could have known about it sooner. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the inclusion of an Asex Criminal in your story. I don't have any funny sex anecdotes or anything to add (maybe you guys could share one of your own instead?); I just wanted to thank you guys for being amazing, as always.

Anna R

I think there should be a shirt that says LITERALLY NETFLIX AND CHILL.

Hello, Anna. You're not alone.

Um, sorry, but a shirt that says LITERALLY NETFLIX AND CHILL would be Mr. Freeze watching Netflix, chum. -CZ

•

So I seem to have a knack for blindly consuming entertainment at just the right moment to provide me with the precise cathartic release that I may or may not have been consciously aware that I so desperately needed. This was never more apparent than with my recovery from a very recent break-up.

The first few days post break-up were relatively standard: isolating myself from human contact, aimlessly walking about in the rain, shouting at the sky, sadness-baking cheese pastries. And then I began to read Moby Dick. Ishmael's lone-wolfishness and the hilarious bromance he forms with Queequeg were the stepping stone I needed to reestablish contact with my own friends and support network.

Next came a chance viewing of the Hitchcock thriller 'Marnie'. Definitely not one of my favourites from the Hitchcock canon but it closes with Tippi Hedren mugging to the camera about how childhood trauma and an imposed need to be 'decent' led to the severe repression that prevented her from being "handled" by any man. Part of the reason for my break-up had been a lower than average interest in sex on my part and, being severely repressed, I had never given the time to processing what this meant for me. The exaggerated response to repression presented in 'Marnie' provided me with the stimulus to begin more consciously probing my own sexuality.

Finally we come to 'Sex Criminals' and issue 13 in particular. I see the introduction of Alix and the focus given to her asexuality in this issue as (possibly? hopefully?) the last piece in the puzzle for me. As I mentioned earlier, even though I didn't realise it at the time, my repression meant that my lack of interest in sex was something that caused me no end of guilt whenever my mind turned to the relationship I was attempting to maintain. Even post break-up when there was no-one to feel obligated to "give the sexing" to I couldn't fathom asexuality as an acceptable option. I hadn't seen it presented as a realistic alternative before and issue 13 as well as the accompanying letter column helped me realise that it can be exactly that.

So I guess what I'm saying is that I followed the peens (Moby DICK, HitchCOCK, Sex Criminals) to enlightenment and that I really appreciate that your comic is a thing.

Thank you.

Leon K

MARNIE is the one where James Bond rapes Melanie Griffith's mom, then murders Laura Dern's dad, right?

•

So, a few issues ago, the question was posed if anyone had gotten laid at the NYCC BrimpUp in 2014. Hello. I am that person. Well, kinda.

You see, that night after being convinced by Matt to come because "Fuck your family, come anyway", I went to that bar alone knowing no one. And in the chaos that was that meet up, I walked in, finally made

my way to the back of the crowed first floor, turned to the first guy I saw, and said something along the lines of "Holy shit." To which he responded "I know." I ended up talking to him for the rest of the night, traded number with him, and before I went to sleep, had a very interesting text conversation about how a good raspberry slathering was a fetish we both share. There has not been a day since that night we haven't talked, and that guy is now my boyfriend.

And I have experienced the most mind-blowing orgasms for the past year. I mean, unbelievable, body spasm, might was well stop time orgasms. Man uses his pork sword like the head of the kings-guard. Even if we didn't do the do that night, that's got to count for something? Right????

So, I guess what I'm trying to say, is thank you. Because your comic has truly changed my life.

Taylor

PORK

SWORD

So, so happy for you and your pork sword. And glad that we could be the stone that you pulled it out of as your meaty Sexcalibur. -CZ

•

Obligatory flattery out of the way I was hoping to build off something André mentioned in his letter in the most recent column. He mentioned that he always felt more vanilla than the women he was with, and this ties into an interesting statistical fact: Any given individual's sexual partners are, by a majority, likely to have had more sexual partners than the individual. It's one of those facts that doesn't seem like it should make sense, but is nonetheless true. I found it fascinating and relevant and wanted to share.

Still a fan even if you don't print this.

With regards,

Nick

Wait what

It's true, chum. Simple fuck math. -CZ

•

On the subject of surprising movies to get down to, I lost my virginity during From Russia with Love (it was not worth missing the gypsy camp scene for). That probably sounds like a weird choice except not long ago, I realized all my absolute favorite male characters (James Bond, Bruce Wayne and Oliver Queen) are basically the same person: brooding rich dudes with commitment issues and savior complexes. I'm working through it, but feel free to forward my info to any emotionally-stunted, well-off letter writers until then.

M

That is maybe the hottest losing-it story I've ever heard.

This is like how I lost my virginity to ROBIN HOOD: MEN IN TIGHTS and now only want to fuck broad parodies. -CZ

•

As an asexual bird who only really realised she was asexual about a year ago (and I just turned *gasp* 30), everything about this issue was just spot on. Aside from the base jumping, that is, because that shit's just scary.

I'll admit that up until last year, when it finally dawned on me that my disinterest in sex wasn't a unique, limited-to-me thing, I genuinely thought I was a complete weirdo. Sex is a BIG DEAL. It's all over the place, right up in your face, not letting you forget that it's a thing that you should totally do lest you be branded some kind of frigid lunatic. I've been judged and judged myself on other people's behalf (behalves? I dunno) for years because why am I not obsessed with this thing that everyone else is obsessed with? Are my lady bits not working properly? What's wrong with my brain? (As it turns out, lots of things, but nothing to do with my attitude towards sexytimes.)

It was fantastic to open this book and see asexuality be presented in such an accurate (at least in my experience) way; especially given the usual super-sexy antics going on within the book. I love the variety Sex Criminals provides; it's not just about one kind of sexuality, it dabbles in all sorts of fetishes and is basically chuffing ace at everything it tries. Asexuality is a difficult topic to broach with others because it's not the norm, and it's kinda difficult to explain, so anything the various forms of media can do to make things more well known, more acceptable, is just dandy in my book. I'm finally completely down with myself; I'm 30, a virgin, married and loving it. Thank you all for this book; seeing a story so close to my heart in a book I bloody well love really did stick a huge grin on my face.

Much love

S

I forgot for a second that "bird" was British slang for "girl" and swear for the first half of your letter I was like, wait, she's a bird? Is that like a fursona? A feathersona? I'm fucking stupid.

I've got a Big Bird fetish that works both ways tbh -CZ

•

I wanted to know the origin story of your title. Why did you choose Sex Criminals?

Sex. Criminals. Sex and then Criminals. Criminals of Sex. The Sex of Criminals. Criminals having Sex. Sexers doing Crimes. Etc.

BOWIE SEX TIP *Sailors [redacted] in the dance hall/ Oh man! /Look at those cavemen go/ It's the freakiest show*

Wherefore Sex Criminals?

I love your comic, and I'm explaining it to other people, but I've encountered some apprehension from potential readers based on the title. Some folks read it as a clever, misdirecting pun. "Sex Criminals. Oh NOOOO, not that kind you nasty devils." I'm aware that's not your intention, but I wanted to know the thought process that went into choosing the title, so I know how to frame it appropriately. Because this is such an incredibly positive and life affirming book.

When you have "Sex" and "Criminals" in the same title like that, did you expect that maybe other connotations could be drawn? I'm just trying to figure out how to navigate this conversation for people who might be more sensitive to the other meanings those two terms can take on together.

Michael S.

I think that's precisely why. The whole thing's a feint. The whole book's a great big yeahbut. It's about people who freeze time when they have sex, but it's not science fiction and it's not really sexy. It's dirty but not prurient, it's about sex but not sexual... it felt like the right sort of contradictory, dumb-naughty, pinky-to-lips sorta stupid joke that we fill the book with like smoke bombs covering up an escape after a bank robbery. Because it's cheap, because it's crass, because it's tasteless and ridiculous and offensive. Because people think sex is, too, I guess? Also it's funny. It's a TERRIBLE NAME FOR A COMIC. As my uncle put it, after seeing the photo cover, "I'd have thought twice before putting my picture next to the words SEX CRIMINAL on the internet."

Also apparently there's already a book called "Spawn"? Ugh whatever.

Better than our original title, "Pork Swords." -CZ

•

Thank you guys so fucking much for issue 13. Thank you for perfectly putting into words and illustrations these feelings I've had for most of my life, but never knew how to describe them or what to call them until recently. When I recognized Alix's thought process at the beginning of the issue as my own when I was younger, I felt my heart start beating faster because I just identified with her so fucking much, and I couldn't believe a piece of media was getting it so right. I know you guys' letter column is usually full of funny, random stuff, so I hope it's okay that mine isn't super funny or anything, but I just want you guys to know how much I fucking appreciate your portrayal of asexuality. Thank you.

-Allison R.

My pleasure. Legitimately.

And, like, my toes are curling into little foot-fists of embarrassment that we're running so many self-aggrandizing letters this month but so much of the mail was from people just like you reaching out to say, well, like the above. And I want to make sure other folks, underrepresented and misunderstood (especially like asexuals in a hyper-sexualized world) know they're not alone.

•

I suppose that you guys have noble intentions behind your recent letter column trend of "helping" "people" with their "crazy-mad sexballs brah, eh?" My feeling is that you need a bracing return to your roots: my life in beating off.

Beyond "All That Jazz," another Betamax tape I remember making a lot of knuckle babies with was

Wait I'm cutting you off right there. You beat off to ALL THAT JAZZ? Was Blockbuster out of copies of SHOAH?

•

I am a 60-year-old mom who began reading Sex Criminals through my son and a friend who raved about it. Even though I grew up in the '60s, I seem to have missed a lot--I've seen more penises while reading your book than in my entire life.

I appreciate the humor, frankness, depth, and honesty of your comic. It's not all about the penises. I do have some questions about a few of the things you've written about. They may show me as naive, but I believe I can count on you to help me out.

1. I understand from the name what a butt plug is, but I can't fathom how that would bring anyone any pleasure. How does that work?

2. I know what a MILF is, and probably can guess the DILF and GILFs, but what are the other "ILFS" on the back cover of issue 13?

3. What is a brimper?

4. Will you highlight some seniors as part of your story sometime? Interest in sex doesn't stop at 50...60...70, etc.

Lastly, I wanted to mention that Chip signed my copy of Kaptara and graciously took a picture with me at San Diego Comic Con. What a nice boy.

Yours from the golden years,

Mary K

Miss Mary, if it makes you feel any better, I've seen more dicks in this book than I have in real life, too, and I used to go to art school.

1. Well, some people like what's

BOWIE SEX TIP He came on so [redacted] man/ well hung and snow white [redacted]

colloquially referred to as "butt stuff." As in all things, what's good for the goose isn't necessarily what the gander wants up ITS butt, though. Sex educator Tristan Taormino has a great book called THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ANAL SEX FOR WOMEN that's maybe as close to a textbook on butt stuff as you'll find. It's sold (and she lectures) at some of the most sex-positive, woman-friendly, judgment-free sex-toy shops around.

2. It's like a psychological test. If you go "Oh! PILFS! Paralegals I'd Love to Fuck! That means you want to fuck your paralegal. And yes, thank you, I am a nice boy. (NBILF) -CZ

3. A fan of SEX CRIMINALS, the comic!

4. YES, as a matter of fact, we will. It might take us a little bit to get there, but yes yes, a thousand times yes.

5. What's a KAPTARA

•

First, my obligatory start of this letter saying that I have loved this comic since the first volume and that I have been working in a comic shop since issue 6. I fell in love with every aspect of this comic and shared it (along with Just the Tips aka the greatest sex guide known to human kind) with everyone I knew. I hit one roadblock though: My girlfriend. She loved the depictions of young dorkish love and how accurate your portrayals of depression were, but she didn't connect with the sexual themes of the comic. She's asexual. And that means that she felt and continues to feel out of place in so many parts of adolescence and society as a whole. But every rare once in a while she gets representation in media. Usually as a plot device in form of someone who just needs to find the right guy who's gentle loving and magic penis will fuck her out of celibacy or the gross nerd who prefers his pewter statues over real women.
Buuuut, sometimes that rare once in a while happens on a leap year and Jupiter is in the fifth house or something like that and Matt Fraption gets it fucking right. So from the bottom of the purple Ace heart of a girl who has finally become a full fledged fan and her sexual boyfriend (somehow we actually work out?) we say thank you.
Alex M.

Can I just say, I'm thrilled not only so many Ace folks have written in, but are in relationships with people that aren't asexual? I think maybe the most beautiful thing in the world is "somehow we actually work out." That's alchemy, right? Magic.

•

A couple weeks back a (now former) acquaintance of mine told me that I wasn't allowed to read Sex Crimz if I'm asexual. By "told" I mean "physically took out of my hands while looking smug and then I punched him in the dick because fuck 'im, fuck 'im and the horse cock he road in on." That hurt. A lot. For all of the reasons. Sex Crimz is super important to me. Not just because it makes me laugh after a shitty day, but because it kinda makes me feel like I belong. Like, there's this story about a girl who feels alone, like there is no one else like her. Who has a thing that hardly anyone would believe if you had to say it out loud. That's my story, bros! The doin' it doesn't even matter, it's reading a story about someone who feels the same--alone. So to be told to my face that I'm not allowed to like a thing just because I don't do a thing? Sucks balls man. Sucks balls in the bad, not fun way.
And then y'all went and did the thing. You went and put someone like me in this amazing stupid thing and not as a joke or a punchline or a single throwaway frame that won't even matter in the end. You gave us a story. You gave us a voice. You made us matter. We're part of a fucking story and fuck you, I'm not fucking crying, you are.
Being asexual is weird as shit, bros. Either we don't exist, we're just uptight or we need to be fixed. Like a Chupacabra. Except nobody believes it's a Chupacabra, it's probably just a really shy stray dog with mange--something to be disproved, something broken that needs to be fixed. Just let me be a fucking Chupacabra, man. Let me be the Loch Ness Monster. Let me be the fucking Unicorn of Sexuality that I deserve to be. Fuck yeah, I'm magical as shit.
And, since I'm here and all... I feel like I should tell you about that one time I did have sex with a guy when I was bored and wanted to see what all the rage was. I mean, we're all friends here, right? Anyway, it was his birthday. His parents, grandmother and two brothers walked in with a cake. He was so startled that he came. And then I thought it would be funny to fake an orgasm while screaming, "This is the droid you're looking for!" In my defense, he had Star Wars sheets! What else could I have done? I saw an opportunity and I took it. His mother started crying. I mean, I think. I couldn't really tell because I was laughing too hard.
Anyway. Thank you for believing in us Chupacabras and Unicorns.
Yours,
Sam

***SOMEONE* OUT THERE IS SUCKIN' THEM GOATS**

This is crazy because my ONE fetish is an entire family entering a room with cake while I have sex. -CZ

•

Over a year ago I started to write a letter to you about my asexuality, but writing it brought up too many painful feelings. I started to cry and I don't know if I even have the draft saved anymore. That was going to be that, until issue #13 came out with the series's first asexual character, Alix. (My name

BOWIE SEX TIP Ch-ch-ch-changes/ Just gonna have to [redacted] a different man

is Alexandra, so the similar names means I was almost meant to respond to this issue.)

Upon finishing this issue I felt underwhelmed, or maybe betrayed. How could the asexual story have so little in common with mine? Also Alix's brother's suicide and implied sexual abuse struck me as possibly sending the "wrong" message about Aces. It sticks with the idea that we are that we are somehow damaged. But then I remembered that part of my struggle with labeling myself as an asexual is that I tend to see myself as damaged and also a bad example of being Ace. I have Asperger's and can be pretty asocial. I generally get the impression from Asexual Advocacy that those are the kinds of stigmas that they are trying to leave behind. (That broken feeling makes me a bad candidate for Aperger's Advocacy too.) Similarly I worry that my fellow Aspies don't want to be thought of asexual. I've had this fixed in my mind so long that I'm really uncertain that I want to come out. I don't want to be a person who is confirming the stereotypes other people are trying to break. On top of that unlike most of the Aces who have written to you I can't get myself to reach climax. Sometime I wonder if this is related to the kinds of hyper- or hypo- sensitivity common to Aspies, but have never looked into getting a proper diagnosis. It just really heightens the sense that I'm missing out on something. Recently, I read an interview with Barry M. Prizant author ofUniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism in which he mentioned that a lot of the people he interviewed were comfortable identifying as Ace and/or non gender binary, which has me rethinking the whole keeping myself quiet thing. (I've often thought I'd prefer to identify as non-gendered, but as my sister points out I wear dresses and skirts, so now I'm left wondering if switching would require more changes in who I am than I really want.) In any case least I need to do further research to rest assured that I'm not alone and or a bad example of everything I am.

Thanks for keeping me thinking and feeling.

Alexandra

Alexandra, I hope you find a space and a tribe in which you feel comfortable being who you need to be.

•

I watched Hated once. It was an ex's choice; she's a big fan of G.G. I kept trying to turn it off and put my hands down her pants, but she made me sit through the whole thing first. The most inappropriate movie I can think of actually having sex to would be Antichrist, with my current partner. It was the first time that I convinced her that sex with me was probably a good idea. Mutilated genetalia couldn't stand between us, and it has blossomed into a relationship which I can tell me parents about. Speaking of them and Shrek, I'm sure I used Shrek as a cover-up for fooling around more than once back in by teens.
Ben

I overdosed watching HATED. The VCR would get to the end of the tape, rewind, and play it again. I think I watched it like 30 times waiting for my heart, or the VCR, to stop. Neither did.

•

My first relationship was with someone a lot like Alix. She was quiet and shy and a little bit of a hard ass. She was asexual, and I didn't really know what that meant, and after we started having sex I - and I feel terrible admitting this - didn't really care. We weren't particularly right for each other but it wasn't a horribly toxic relationship or anything. There was just an insane distance, a gulf of utter difference, that separated us. When we broke up I tried to stay friends with her, but I slowly realized that I just had no idea who she was or how she really experienced the world. My understanding of her asexuality was conflated with my understanding of her struggles with mental health, as well as her slow dissent into actually mistreating me once we were no longer together. Unlike Alix, she's not a very nice person, sadly. But like Alix she is a person, which is more important.

I don't like to think that she did things for me that she wasn't actually comfortable doing, but that's almost certainly the case. There was always consent, of course, but sometimes that's just about all there was. I'm in an extremely loving relationship now and I've worked hard to put the past behind me, but Sex Criminals 13 forced me to confront a part of myself - a part of my life - that I had carefully shelved, had told myself was unimportant. I don't know what it is to be ace. I never really will. Like everyone else, I'm trapped in my own brain and in my own body and with my own pleasures.

Your comic book helped me understand what my ex-girlfriend's world feels like in a way that being with her for half a year never did. There are so many tragicomic moments in Bace that stung me, that reverberated inside my skull and gave me an emotional headache. The 4x4 grid where Alix reluctantly approaches fellatio was probably the funniest page in the book for most readers, but I wept reading that page. I've been that penis - rigid, unaware and without sympathy. I told myself that I respected her orientation, but all I really did was try to avoid disrespecting it - which is not the same thing.

In the end, she and I both faked it. She faked wanting me and I faked understanding her. Like Alix says in the incredible captioning of this issue, sex wasn't the mystery. The mystery was each other. Neo-Freudian and sexual nihilist Jaques Lacan is famous for saying

that "there is no such thing as a sexual relationship," that we are all sexually solipsistic because we cannot truly understand the sexual pleasure (or displeasure) of anyone but ourselves. This seems cynical to me, and your silly little sex book clearly doesn't operate on that premise. But Base complicates my assumption that I can understand others without sacrificing my comfort, and it refused to let me get away with denying empathy to the first person I ever had sex with. I still don't fully understand her and that's OK. I never will, but your writing has brought me a little closer. There is nothing wrong with her. There is nothing wrong with me.

I love you guys,
Eli

I think this letter is so lovely I cut out all the references to hockey-fucking.

WHAT -CZ

•

I wanted to say that though I've loved the series from its inception, #6 always stays with me. That issue came out when I was a few months into starting medication for my anxiety attacks (and in retrospect, maybe depression). I cried as it put a lot of my struggles with being on medication and confronting the issues that brought me there into words. More than a year later, I'm off meds and doing well in therapy. For me, anxiety, depression and sex has all been intertwined - so while I keep making progress, it's fun/therapeutic to sort out my feelings with Sex Criminals as an accompaniment. I was curious if it came from personal experience or not - but either way thank you, guys.

Also, dick humor goes a long way in helping people anyway.

Love,

Ariana

A dick joke a day keeps the doctor away. Unfortunately it's a doctor of Renaissance poetry so it's not really useful in any real sense of the word.

And congrats for sticking with it and enduring it all -- both with your mental health and our shitty comic.

•

I've been getting my Sex Criminals fix using the comiXology mobile app. Issues presently available: #1 through #8, and #13.
What gives? Where are #9-12?!
A fan left unfinished,
D.

Pretty sure they won't sell it if we show boners and cum. So we've pretty much decided to get boners and cum into every goddamn issue.

Go to

http://bit.ly/brimp

to get our shit digital, DRM-free, and in a format YOU choose. Also we make more money this way.

Can you imagine if you were allowed to see CUM?? You'd lose your mind! That fuckin' squirt tapioca is SO SEXY MMM OH YEAHHH!

Thanks for protecting us all, Apple Daddy and Google Mommy! -CZ

•

I just finished Issue #13 and wanted to say thank you for including Alix. While I'm not asexual myself, I have a lot of hang ups surrounding sex due to a bad case of obsessive compulsive disorder. As a 21 (soon to be 22) year old female virgin, I've been infantilized and made fun of quite a bit for trying to go at my own pace, and consequently have told a lot of Doug Sweets to go fuck themselves for giving me shit. I guess what I'm trying to say is thanks for writing a story that reminds me that there's nothing wrong with me. That I'm not such a freak after all.

Also, I've lent my copy of Vol. 1 to multiple professors in my English department when they ask me for comic recommendations. I'm hoping this results in me gaining a reputation in academic circles as a Scholarly Smut Peddler.

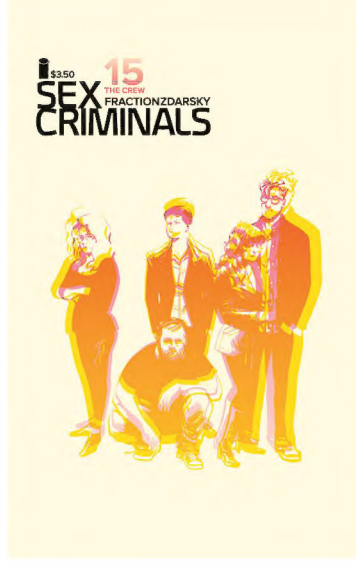
Thanks again,

Hannah G

There is nothing wrong with you. Other than you give this stupid fucking comic to English professors, that's a goddamn mistake, jesus, Hannah, get it together, what the fuck.

NEXT ISSUE!

THE RACE TO ESCAPE HELL IS THWARTED BY SATAN HIMSELF. WILL AL AND WANDA GET THEIR HAPPILY EVER AFTER



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